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do not belong to the educationally Backward Classes, preference is to be given to a candidate whose father and grand-father have had no education. Beyond these facilities, there is no other special consideration shown."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Is the 25 per cent reservation observed in the case of candidates who belong to the Backward Classes? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir, 15 per cent for Scheduled Classes and 25 per cent for candidates belonging to the socially and educationally Backward Classes."

*Bed-strength in the Chirala Hospital.*

* 49 *Q.*—SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to increase the bed-strength of Chirala Hospital during this year?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" In view of the representation made by the local people, will the Government consider the question of increasing the bed-strength of the hospital? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The daily average attendance of in-patients does not show any need for extension."

*The Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur.*

* 50 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government sealed the Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur and Lakkidi;

(*b*) what steps the Government propose to take to re-open the same; and

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representation from the workers of the above factory regarding their arrears of wages, etc., and if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Government have attached these properties under the Revenue Recovery Act.

" (*b*) The Government do not propose to take any steps to re-open the factory under their own management at the present moment.

" (*c*) (i) No, Sir.

(ii) Does not arise."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know since how many months the concern has stopped work? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The properties have been attached from 6th December 1952."

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SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it not a fact that the management violated section 7 of the Payment of Wages Act in not giving the arrears of wages to workers all these months, and if so, what action are the Government going to take against the management under section 20 of the Payment of Wages Act? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" My hon. Friend is aware that the management of the metal industry violated all the laws that are known. It is up to the workers to raise this question with the management. At the present moment, the workshop is closed and there is nothing that can be done."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Minister has given us the information that the factory has been closed. Therefore, the question of an industrial dispute with the management of a factory which is running it does not arise at all. Will the Government now see to it that the workers get at least their arrears of wages and will they take the necessary steps in that direction? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am sure that when the factory is re-opened, whether it is re-opened by the present management or by any other management or by the Government, due consideration will be given to the question of all arrears of pay due to the workers."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Since the prospects of collecting the money which the Government have invested are lean, and since the factory seems to be a promising one, will the Government consider the question of converting the amount that is invested into shares and thus help to re-start the factory? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" There was an application from some new people who were anxious to look into the accounts to decide whether they can take over the management of the concern, and the Government have ordered that all the accounts should be submitted to them for their perusal, and their decision will later be made known to the Government."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—What were the grounds for the closure, and is the closure to continue indefinitely without the workers receiving their arrears of wages? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, the closure was done under the Revenue Recovery Act. The management of the company has been informed by the notice of attachment that unless the arrears of interest and the expenses are paid before the 1st of January, the properties of the company would be brought to sale."

8-50 a.m. SRI A. APPU :—" Sir, what was the total amount of loan granted to the company and what proportion of it was repaid by the company? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The total amount of loan granted to the Company was Rs. 1,75,000 for the purchase of machinery. We were told that part of this machinery was sold and no payment was made to the Government out of this."